

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 16:03:14 1995  
Message-Id: <3005926480.0.p01599@psilink.com>  
Date: Sun, 02 Apr 95 14:05:02 +0000  
From: "OPS JRF KC1FB" <p01599@psilink.com>  
Subject: "Spring" QRP to the "Field"

Call it Spring, but it was winter cold....and my Field was only the deck on my house. Hauled my trusty Argo 509 out there with a gel cell, a H.B. Z-Match antenna tuner intending to work SSB, but added my 40-40, NorCal 40A and a key....just in case.

For the antenna, I figured I'd use the Half-Square I put up in November... after all I told my wife it was "temporary". But in the true spirit of the event, I took down one end that came near the deck, stripped the insulation off the wire and fed it as a long wire (and I did remember to short the ladder line that went into the shack). Pounded a short metal stake in the ground attached a short lead to it and the tuner and lo...it tuned up nicely.

Checked 40 20 and 15 SSB....didn't know where to look.....checked my books for the QRP SSB calling freq's...no one around. Checked 7.040, lots of signals calling CQ QRP TEST....so detach Argo, attach newly built, 40-40 (it covers 7.040) and runs just under 1 Watt. Tune it up...signals are strong...now I wish I'd spent more time on CW and less building!

I work WB3GCK and get a 579! It works! So...work a few....go in and get hot coffee (I knew this was a good field location)....work a few....hook up my NorCal 40A (it covers the Novice portion) don't hear any one calling CQ QRP or TEST....re-attach the trusty 40-40...work a few...go get hot soup...take some time to watch the Lady Huskies win the Semi-final... work a few....set my goal as ten (mis-read the rules...thought I'd get a participants certificate for ten)...now it's cloudy and breezy and colder...work a few....my hand is shaking badly now...I log my tenth, KZ4D (I didn't notice my dup of WB3GCK as #9)...so I quit!

All for 10 contacts with one dup...wish my CW speed was better.

So I got  $9 \text{ contacts} \times 10 \times 3 \times 1.5 = 405$  ... and had more fun than I've had since last Field Day. Wish it was in late April or early May, but then it might be too easy!

My thanks to the NorCal club for sponsoring this fun event!

A member, though I don't know my number.

Jim Francoeur  
KC1FB

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 19:35:11 1995  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 95 15:45:16 -0500  
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)  
Message-Id: <9504022045.AA02810@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>  
Subject: bandplans

>From the ARRL FCC Rule Book - Guide to the FCC Regulations  
1993 Copyright date.

80M - 3580-3620 digital with packet 3620-3635 Region 2  
40M - 7080-7100 digital in US, 7100-7120 non-US in Region 2  
30M - 10130-10150 digital and RTTY with 10140-10150 packet  
20M - 14070-14100 for RTTY and packet (note: 14070 is lower  
limit and the number we are having trouble with when  
inconsiderate operators are moving down)  
17M - 18068-18100 is cw band  
18100-18105 RTTY  
18105-18110 packet  
15M - 21070-21090 RTTY  
21090-21100 packet  
12M - 24.890-24920 CW only  
24920-24925 RTTY  
24925-24930 packet  
24930-24990 phone/cw/SSTV  
10M - 28070-28189 RTTY/data  
28120-28189 packet

all freqs in kHz and these are for Region 2. Milage may  
vary.

FYI

dit dit

Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60 adams@sgi.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Apr 3 01:21:43 1995  
From: mtrail@violet.berkeley.edu  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 1995 19:01:53 -0700 (PDT)  
Subject: eating toroidal crow  
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9504021849.A26961-0100000@violet.berkeley.edu>

Hi, all

Well, I KNEW I shouldn't have made that crack about how easy this toroid business is...

Made it out to the Norcal meeting today with N6TQS, and while there I had a chance to look at another Norcal 40a...close inspection of which revealed the cause of my audio problems! Turns out that I had reversed my primary and secondary windings on T2. Wayne N6KR kindly and gently confirmed the mistake. I think I know why I made the mistake--the one turn winding is the primary, and "primary" implies 1 and 2, right?? And doesn't the illustration on p. 12 label the primary 1 and 2? Well, it made sense to me at the time. If I had paid closer attention to the composite placement drawing and the schematic, I would have discovered the error of my ways--sooner! The one turn winding goes into 3 and 4! Oh, well--humility is good for the soul, and let this be a warning! (Second confession--I sorta overdid it on the krylon. It looked soooooo pretty....)

Anyways, it was great meeting some of the movers and shakers, as well as seeing the first working prototype of the new Cascade. Looked mighty slick...

Well, now to practice my unsoldering plated-through holes skills...  
73 and counting, Matt KN6CR

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 19:55:54 1995  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 1995 17:34:30 -0400 (EDT)  
From: Bruce Robertson <brucerob@epas.utoronto.ca>  
Subject: ferrite material and qrp afield  
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9504021733.A19997-0100000@blues.epas.utoronto.ca>

Gang: while cooking up my next amidon order, I noticed something of interest. It seems that my two QRP bibles tend toward using different materials for their ferrite core xformers. 'RF Design' almost always uses the 61 material with a mu around 125, while the later W1FB Notebook calls for 43 material nearly exclusively (mu 800+). Since the second book is later, does this mean that the 43 material is a newer product, or are they simply working to different design principles?

Second question: can someone explain the effective difference between trans. line transformers and conventional broadband ones? 'RF Design' is uncharacteristically unhelpful, mumbling something about power lost. Finally, I clamped the 40m whip to the 3rd storey balcony, freshly sanded for good rf conduction and with some new 33' counterpoises. The heaving .9w from my 40-40 resulted in 5-6 qso's including k4xy who is my vote for strongest signal and most persistant cq'er! A great way to break up a day of doing the dishes, etc!

72, VE3UWL

Bruce G. Robertson Dept. of Classics, U. of T.

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 14:08:40 1995

From: JimN00CT@aol.com  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 1995 13:17:43 -0400  
Message-Id: <950402131533\_69113194@aol.com>  
Subject: Fools Outing:Fear and Loathing..

Well, we knew it was forcasted to be 50 degrees and cloudy on saturday, but that's not too bad.

The executive planning session was held from 1545-1610 UTC. SLQS members that came and went were Fred N0JFZ, Andy W0NVN, Stan AK0B and Don KZ0Y. The first antenna up was NF0R's "Random Wire Vertical". We would use this on 20 meters as a half wave vertical. Next up was the SGA low profile dipole for 40 meters. It was 47 degrees F.

The 20 meter station consisted of the RWV, A&A Gary Breed kit, MFJ tuner, MFJ 401B keyer and Bencher paddles. Sorry guys, you'll have to turn the paddles around, they're wired for left hand use....

The 40 meter station was a Ten Tec Argosy, SGA antenna, homebrew T-tuner, Hamkeyer, and a dual Hamkey paddle and straight key combo.

In reserve were an SWL-40 [finished at 2:30 am the night before] and a Ten Tec Argo 509.

Twenty meters started out nicely, with both ends of the country worked [NJ and CA]. Propagation was horrid.

Forty was a total bust.

About 11:30 am, [after it had started raining hard] some wag on one of the local 2 meter machines said it was snowing north of us. Ha, April Fools!

About 12:30, it started snowing on the SLQS. April's Fools! As soon as it stopped we tore down and went home. It was 35 degrees F. I was sending "CQ TEST, CQ QRP TEST DE N&OCC#". Had I put the straight key between my knees, I could've sent 80 WPM. Not much one can do with a string of dits, however....

We thought about writing this off as a "covert op", but KZ0Y had already taken pictures, and we don't know his price.

NF0R and I tore down and were gone by 2000 UTC. As we shook hands [after wincing from the pain], we agreed:

"It's only a hobby"

Hypothermically Submitted,  
Jim N00CT

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 08:31:28 1995  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 95 04:39:46 -0500  
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)  
Message-Id: <9504020939.AA02263@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>  
Subject: K5F0/5 Afield Score

Hey gang,

Sorry. Just gotta get the points where you can. :-)

Scored like a ARCI contest.

Recalculated score

$6(QSOs) \times 10(0.95W) \times 3(Field) \times 1.5(HB) = 270 \text{ points.}$

Don't think I'll be turning this one in. :-) It was fun and the QRPers know when to have a contest, when the wx is good here in TX.

Speaking of wx. A week or so ago we had severe wx here in TX. Due to a near lightning strike I lost my GC-1000 clock and one NC40a. Bummer, but I do have another NC40a. Knew there was a reason for getting two. Don't know about the clock though, that's going to be tough.

OK. Just a few weeks to Dayton. Gotta build a 30M Explorer this weekend and then it'll be 30M evenings till Dayton. Til Dayton, 30M 10.106 to 10.125 is Internet territory. If you are going to Dayton, get on. Try to work the other 80 or so people going.

For the others not making the trip, maybe we can have a "fox hunt" during Dayton, where you work those of us going from our hotel rooms.

Rich, WOHEP, a few weeks ago posted the digital guys taking over. During the test today I called CQ around 14.050MHz and right in the middle of it a digital guy came on. Doesn't anyone read about the band plan? Digital is restricted to 14.070MHz and up on 20M, if I remember correctly. I have the manual at work, I guess, 'cuz I can't find it in the house right now. On 30M it's 10.135 or higher. I don't see the digital group trying to move up. :-)

dit dit

Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60 adams@sgi.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 15:05:29 1995  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 1995 09:09:21 -0700 (PDT)  
From: Steven Wilson <randyw@crl.com>  
Subject: KeyCAD electronic library  
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.950402090546.4137A-100000@crl10.crl.com>

Dumb question (maybe) but has anyone found the library file  
at ftp sunsite.unc.edu (ab4el) that was uploaded by wa8mcq ?

Help ! what directory ? sub-directory ? file names ? etc.

sometimes these computers can make you feel like a real dummy.

de stan AK0B  
e-mail via randyw@crl.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 23:18:46 1995  
From: rohrwerk@holonet.net  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 1995 17:21:21 -0700  
Message-Id: <199504030021.RAA28754@holonet.net>  
Subject: Re: Loop Antenna

Verily hath turner@safety.ICS.UCI.EDU written:

> All this discussion about loop antennas has me thinking. I have just  
> taken down my dipoles and strung a loop, as long as I could. It is  
> about 450 feet strung in 4 trees almost a square, up about 50 feet on  
> 3 sides, and maybe 35 on one support. I fed it with RG8X at one of  
> the supports, and have about 100 feet to the shack.

Some comments on your various questions...

If it's working for you, maybe you should leave well enough alone :-) .

Having said that... as long as you're using a tuner anyway, make it a balanced  
tuner and use balanced line all the way into the shack. (OK, if you're  
paranoid, run a few feet of coax across the room and put the balun there.) I  
suspect twinlead will not offer the benefits of low loss under high SWR  
conditions that an open wire or ladder line feed would, especially at 100 feet  
of feedline.

If you are using one of those autotuners (convenient, no?) that doesn't feed  
balanced lines, you could use a balun. Always use a "current" type balun,  
because you need balanced \*currents\* to keep a balanced line from radiating. I

suggest a choke type balun made out of a coil of about 30 feet of your coax that you would remove from your antenna feed ( :- ) , wound around a 5 inch diameter PVC pipe piece. The usual toroid baluns really don't work well with unmatched lines (which is really what you have here, even on its fundamental frequency). An alternative would be one of those ferrite bead choke baluns.

You say "a 4:1 balun to reduce the SWR." You don't know if this will reduce the SWR or not! You have here a random impedance antenna feed. Do you know for sure that the impedance is high and needs to be reduced in all situations? No, you don't, without measuring the specific impedance for each frequency you're using. Besides, the Z will be reactive, so most 4:1 balun designs are doomed to work less successfully because of this.

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: John Seboldt rohrwerk@holonet.net / I am Bach of Borg...
: Amateur radio K0JD... / your style will be
: Church of the Annunciation, / assimilated.
: Minneapolis /
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-> Alice4Mac 2.3 E QWK Eval:05Mar94

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 21:26:17 1995  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 1995 17:20:25 -0700  
From: dgf@netcom.com (David Feldman)  
Message-Id: <199504030020.RAA28663@netcom15.netcom.com>  
Subject: Max DC supply voltage for NORCAL 40A

I'm planning to use a pair of 7.2V nicads in series for my Norcal 40A. At max charge, the two in series put out just over 16V. I suspect this will toast the 40A, so I'm planning to use a few diodes in series with the battery to knock it down to 14.4 or so at max charge. Is there a safe upper limit for DC supply for the 40A?

By the way, I'm using these batteries because they're on hand, compact, and have 1000 mah capacity.

73 Dave WB0GAZ dgf@netcom.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 13:23:16 1995  
From: Byron8LCZ@aol.com  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 1995 11:03:34 -0400  
Message-Id: <950402110334\_69030312@aol.com>  
Subject: NorCal's QRP Afield contest

Having a outdoors type of contest in early April is rough on the northern states. April is the snow/rain season and temps can vary from freezing to the 50's. I could see moving the contest to the beginning of May, next year. This should increase participation.

The Michigan wx forecast for Thru thru Sun was possibility of rain or snow flurries, with temps in the 10's to 40's. We had a rainy day on Thursday and by Saturday morning, it was in the 10's overnight and warmed up to the low 40's in midday. It was overcast most of the day, keeping the temps from climbing very high.

I considered running 1 watt, but figured I wasn't going to do that well anyway with the home multiplier of "1" and the commercial equipment multiplier of "1", so I ran 5 watts and concentrated on working as many QRP'ers as I could and ignoring the score. It turned out to be a good decision.

40m turned out to be very noisy, crowded with mutant amtor'ites, lots of folks tuning up on the international tune up freq (7.040), rag chewers who refused to vacate the freq to a contest and a few QRP'ers willing to put up with it all. I wonder what would happen if we had a contest only on 15m and 20m and CW only ? I'm sure that splitting up the group between SSB and CW hurt the overall results. How did the Calif QRP'ers do ? Its tough to sit for 8 hours and only work a couple of contacts per hour, I wonder how many get discouraged and do "saturday things" instead.

Why don't we make the QRP contesting freq on 40m to be 7.050 in the future ? Everytime I checked that freq, it was relatively quiet.

There probably won't be many entries into this contest, I encourage everyone to send in their logs to NorCal. Lets support this contest and show NorCal, we want to see another one next year. Eh ?

I continued to check 10m and 15m at the top and bottom of every hour. I managed to pick up a few more contacts/multipliers that way. But forgot to check the novice portions of the bands. Darn.

72, Byron WA8LCZ

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 13:27:23 1995  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 1995 10:39:59 -0400 (EDT)  
From: Brien Pepperdine <pepperb@govonca2.gov.on.ca>  
Subject: QRP A-Basement  
Message-Id: <Pine.OSF.3.90.950402102553.26355A-100000@govonca2>

For the NorCal Spring to the Field Contest the 2 degree Celcius with wind-chill wx here necessitated I spring as far as the stairs. Sorry, but I knew this would not be NorCal wx here.

Managed to work 14 contacts on 40 m. using the NC 40A @ just under 2 watts. The last contact, still working on figuring this one out, was station F00LS, @ about 2356 Z, so an attempt to figure out exactly what that was



about was ended at 2400 (0000) Z by the end of April 1. Bootleg or legit. special 01 April station, I don't know yet.

In the end I worked from Ontario: MASS, VA, MI, PA, NY, MI, CT and Quebec (not yet counting as a DXCC country, pending the "end" of the "separation debate"!!!, hi hi). Prop. must have been bad, since I usually manage TX, TN and the environs regularly. Same stations heard over and over, with few new entries into the band as the day progressed. Anyhow, despite having to stay indoors it was fun, and a nice little prep. for the FD marathon's mode of op. (have someone assigned to make coffee).

Noise level went down considerably after I realized the rig was sitting on top of my laptop computer which was ON - when turned off the hard drive no longer made all the QRN I was hearing.

72

Brien  
Toronto

VE3VAW

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 19:45:27 1995  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 1995 14:04:11 -0600  
Message-Id: <199504022004.AA26230@teal.csn.org>  
From: bcutter@teal.csn.net (Bob Cutter)  
Subject: QRP Afield

Saturday I had to pick my wife up at the airport, 90 miles away. I decided to operate mobile with my 40A. I am not a HF mobile op so borrowed a 40M resonator from K9MWM and was in business.

40 was pretty dead until the last hour of the contest but I managed 10 QSO's.

Observations:

1. The Autek RF- 1 makes mobile antenna tune-up a snap!
2. The 40A has plenty of audio with RS headphones.
3. The 40A is a great little rig, but we already knew that.
4. We will get some flame for the bandwidth reporting on this contest but it is a great exercise, like the Fox Hunt, and I heard stations that I know had never been on a contest type event before and I am sure they were enjoying it. That, after all, is the name of the game.

72, Bob KI0G

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 18:17:11 1995  
Date: 02 Apr 95 15:31:37 EDT  
From: Craig LaBarge <74740.3166@compuserve.com>  
Subject: QRP Field Results  
Message-Id: <950402193137\_74740.3166\_EHB156-1@CompuServe.COM>

After missing the QRP AFIELD event last September, I was bound and determined to get out into the field for this one. I made it and I had a ball. I operated for about 6 hours from the rural QTH of a local ham (Rolf, N3LA) in Spring City, PA. It was an excellent opportunity to field test some homebrew equipment (and there's a thing or two I need to fix before the next outing!).

On arrival at 1535Z, I picked out a nice looking pine tree to support my inverted vee for 40 meters (fed with about 40 feet of RG-174). I taped some 10-lb test monofilament line to a golf ball and used the "armstrong" method to put the line over a branch which was up about 30 feet. One end of the vee was tied down in a grazing area which was inhabited by some sheep and a crazy ram who sometimes has very bad attitude. Keeping an eye out for the ram, I tied off the antenna and quickly hopped back over the fence to safety. By 1603Z, I was on the air.

I operated from the cab of my pick-up truck using an NE 40-40 transceiver set up for 950mW. I also used a homebrew Curtis chip keyer and some homebrew paddles I had recently been experimenting with.

The setup performed well beyond my wildest expectations. The little 40-40 played its heart out and performed flawlessly. The preliminary results are:

47 (40M/CW QSOs) X 10 (950mW) X 3 (Field) X 1.5 (HB) = 2,115 points

A few of the Internet QRPers I worked include: KC1FB, N2CX, WB8ZJL, WK8S, VE3VAW, WB7EEL, and AA2PF. I heard AA4XX loud and clear from NC, but couldn't link up. I also heard from Ernie, W8MVN. I had the gain on the 40-40 cranked wide open when he called -- my ears are still ringing! VY2MP checked in twice from Prince Edward Island and gave me a 559.

The major problem I encountered was the stability of my homebrew paddles. My apologies to those who had to put up with my erratic sending while I was chasing my paddles around the cab of the truck. I'm going to dig up some suction cups, double-sided tape, and velcro

and go back to the drawing board!

It was a fun afternoon with perfect weather here in Southeastern Pennsylvania. I can't wait for the next QRP field event!

73, Craig WB3GCK

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 23:11:04 1995  
Date: 02 Apr 95 21:15:35 EDT  
From: Craig LaBarge <74740.3166@compuserve.com>  
Subject: Re: QRP Field Results...  
Message-Id: <950403011534\_74740.3166\_EHB191-1@CompuServe.COM>

On Sunday, April 2nd, I wrote:

> A few of the Internet QRPers I worked include: KC1FB, N2CX, WB8ZJL,  
> WK8S, VE3VAW, WB7EEL, and AA2PF.

The "WB8" call should have been WA8LCZ. Somehow I typo'd Byron's call beyond recognition. Sorry, Byron. I had you logged correctly, however.

73, Craig WB3GCK

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 13:05:14 1995  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 1995 10:39:15 -0400  
From: "John F. Woods" <jfw@jfwhome.funhouse.com>  
Message-Id: <199504021439.KAA09319@jfwhome.funhouse.com>  
Subject: QRP Sprung to the Field

Well, the "field" was my driveway, but here is how I did:

40m: 1

15m: 0

80: 0

1 QSO @ 5 points (2W) x 3.0 (batt & temporary ant.) x 1.5 (HB) = 22.5.

At least I gave K5F0/5 someone to beat :-).

I had decided to put up the antennas after the starting gun, just like a real Field Day (actually, I didn't decide that until Friday night, when I failed to get around to putting up the antenna well ahead of time :-). I started with a 15m dipole, and heard nothing on my Sierra (well, some faint RTTY stations); of course, I hadn't yet gotten around to aligning the receiver filter on the Sierra, but even after I did, the RTTY stations were pretty weak... So, I switched to my QRP Sprint, the 40m DC rig, and after verifying that there was activity on

the band, I put up another antenna, a roughly 120' random wire. Once I got the tuner set, I was able to work WB3GCK (Hi, Craig!), then dashed back into the house for a cup of hot coffee (it was about 38 degrees outside!) and a watch. It was 1PM EST. I could only hear two contest stations on 40 at the time, and the other couldn't hear me :-), so I tried 80m (back to the Sierra). After isolating the source of the S9+100 noise (bad fluorescent light), I got tuned up and went hunting around, but heard no contest (of course, I wasn't sure where to look). After a while, I tried 15 again, heard a few stations but no contest, so I went back to 40. By this time, the band had filled up enough that the DC rig wasn't practical, so out came the 40-40 I still hadn't adjusted right from last time; predictably enough, I made no contacts with it in a couple of hours of trying. I gave up around 5PM when the metal chair I was sitting on got too cold :-), around 5PM.

Oh well. At least I got something out of it (besides the contact); the 15m dipole loaded up quite well, so now I have a portable antenna I can rely on, AND I got some practice putting up a guyed antenna support (which turned out to be a 12' 1x4 that I found lying around). I even managed to put it up by myself (thanks to the other end of both antennas being supported by trees).

72 and hope you did better than I did,  
John, WB7EEL/1

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 18:03:10 1995  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 1995 13:14:52 -0700 (PDT)  
From: H Smith <hbs@crl.com>  
Subject: QRP to da field  
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.950402130147.27760B-100000@crl12.crl.com>

It was a beautiful weekend in Dallas. I have never seen so many people at a park in my life. There was a BIG soccer tournament, a BIGGER walk-a-thon and some weird looking folks wearing tights and carrying padded swords. There was even a Jazz band there.

Needless to say, we didn't stay there. We had missed Chuck, K5F0 and didn't know what to do next.

Sooooo, the 5 of us who did make contact there, drove over to another park and set up two 20 foot poles and strung a 20 meter dipole between them (nobody really got on 40, did they?).

So after a late start, NA5K was on the air, with Bill, K5JHP, Bud, K5JHS, Baity, W2LQ, Larry, N5OSG and myself, NA5K as operators.

We operated from around noon until 4:30 local time and got 30 contacts.

We had Bill, K5JHP's little QRP Scout and Vibroplex paddles, some batteries, a table, some chairs, some coffee and a pencil and some paper. What else do you need?

It was a lot of fun but we missed Chuck, K5F0. We did have a video camera and we will let him look at the entire operation on video:-)

CUL,

Smitty, NA5K

Henry Smith (hbs@crl.com)

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 23:07:39 1995  
From: JEVERHART@cayman.VF.MMC.COM  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 1995 20:15:28 -0400 (EDT)  
Message-Id: <950402201528.238215ef@carib.vf.mmc.com>  
Subject: QRP To The Field

Gang,

Wow, QRP To The Field was the most fun I've had in my cloth... errr, in a long time! I planned a great portable location and even GOT PERMISSION to put up a dipole in a County park. I had my gel cell (solar) charged, fresh batteries for the keyer and the NC-40A cranked up to a huge .999 wats. But...I stupidly had two wisdom teeth pulled on Friday. The doc said "you may experience some discomfort for a few days." Lord, if that's discomfort, I don't want pain!

Anyway, I didn't feel well enough to shivver at a riverbank in cool, windy weather, so I stayed home. I did put a dipole, but can't count it 'cause it didn't work well. After two hard won contacts I switched to my old standby HF6-VX. It made a world of difference.

I struggled through 5 hours of operating in between taking my youngest to high school tennis practice and the wife to lunch AND putting up a dipole to make 25 valid contacts! There were very few stations heard that were unworkable. QTH's worked were PA, VA, ONT (PARTIAL CONTACT), NY, NC, NJ, MA, MD, ME and OH.

To stay homebrew, I worked only 40 meters. The band had its ups and downs. Sometimes I could work one station right after another in response to my own CQs. Now that's rare for me. Other times there was nobody there to search for and pounce upon.

There were several highlights. I finally managed to work Craig, WB3GCK

with readable signals - he's normally weak due to our 30 mile separation. I also worked a mobile, W4VOE/M/QRP in NC, while he was running 5w to a Hamstick. Not too shabby from NJ in the afternoon. AND at long last I managed to work Mike, WA8MCQ on HF instead of the Internet. Of course he was QRO at 4 watts, but I'll forgive him.

Profuse thanks to NORCAL for setting up the event. You can be darned sure that I'll steer clear of dentists and doctors in September. Don't want to miss QRP Afield!

72/73,

Joe E. N2CX

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 05:24:08 1995  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 1995 00:17:12 -0800 (PST)  
From: Alan Kaul <kaul@netcom.com>  
Subject: QRP to the Field contest  
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9504020027.A13170-01000000@netcom14>

Didn't get to the field -- but had a good time anyway.

40 Meters only -- Running the Norcal 40 at about 2W, with Vertical Antenna

16 QSO's = 12 CA, 1 CO, 1 NM, 1 NV, 1 UT  
I heard a couple of the Norcal Movers and Shakers (N6KR and N6ULU) but couldn't break their pileups!! I did manage to work QRP ARCI Journal columnist/scribe KI6SN!

Anyone know the hours of operation? I might have strayed over the finish time.... And does anyone know how to score this contest?

Please and tnx, 72 de alan w6rcl/qrp!!!

[<Alan Kaul, W6RCL>] kaul@netcom.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 07:47:31 1995  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 95 04:04:27 -0500  
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)  
Message-Id: <9504020904.AA02218@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>  
Subject: Re: QRP to the Field contest

Well, I don't know how Byron and the rest of group did it, but the weather here in Texas was fantastic!! Just like last September. It was cool, around 50 at sunrise, but it warmed up to 70 degrees today.

Started with high clouds but cleared up.

The propagation was lousy.

Went to the park, but some large group was already there and didn't see any of the others there, so went north west of Plano to another park. Did work Byron on 20M.

Used NN1G rig on 20M and Explorer on 40M.

6 contacts x 5 spc x 10 x 1.5 x 3 = 1,350 points.

950 mW on each band

Heath HFT-9 tuner with end fed long wire 100' supported by two 20' poles. Home depot had 117' roll of #24 copper wire for \$1.99 and I used 300 ohm ladder line to feed it. Worked well considering conditions and wasn't too difficult to put up.

When I worked Bryon, he asked for repeat as 20M was up and down in wave like motion. If you didn't catch a contact at the peak you missed it.

Thanks for the contact Bryon. I missed Ernie this time.

I had receiver on at sunrise on 40M and the band sounded great. I did hear a DK on 20M during the test but I figure he was running a KW for me to hear him.

dit dit

Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60 adams@sgi.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 10:46:15 1995  
From: rarland@epix.net  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 1995 12:45:08 +0000 (GMT)  
Subject: Re: QRP to the Field contest  
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.950402124255.2052A-1000000@mango.epix.net>

Hi Gang:

Due to the work schedule I was only able to get on the air for a few minutes, but htat OK, 'cuz it gave somebody else a chance to win!

Used the NorCal 40-X and dipole to work KA3WTF and K4XY.

Maybe I qualify for low score.

72 rich

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 15:01:26 1995  
From: Byron8LCZ@aol.com  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 1995 14:15:12 -0400  
Message-Id: <950402141510\_69157013@aol.com>  
Subject: QRP to the Field contest

I didnt hear Ernie W8MVN holding a freq this time. He must be off on the sidelines, doing a "search and destroy" (tune and pounce). We've had more than our share of minor and major solar storms and unusual conditions this past month.

Has anyone worked 3D2CT from Conway Reef yet ? I see them showing up on the DX packet cluster but mostly on SSB frequencys. Oh yes, just worked TT8/D2SA in Chad Africa on 18 mhz the day before the contest. So conditions weren't too bad.....(its number 22 on the "most wanted DX survey". In case you're wondering, yes, the QRP Plus and vertical did the job. We gave each other 559's. It was more like 439's.

See you in the next 'test

72, Byron WA8LCZ Detroit

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 16:06:09 1995  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 1995 09:47:07 -0700 (PDT)  
From: Monte Stark <ku7y@sage.dri.edu>  
Subject: Re: QRP to the Field contest  
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.90.950402094049.1926A-100000@nimbus>

On Sun, 2 Apr 1995 rarland@epix.net wrote:

>  
> Maybe I qualify for low score.  
>  
> 72 rich  
>

Sorry Rich,

My score was zero, (0).

Had rain, wind, cold and power outage and this was all while I was at work!

Like you, I was worried about winning. But now I can rid myself of all that guilt by letting someone else win. :-)



Hmmmmmm, just wait till next time.

73's, Ron

.....KU7Y.....Monte "Ron" Stark.....  
....ku7y@sage.dri.edu.....Sun Valley, Nevada....  
.....ARRL.....NorCal #330.....NRA LIFE.....

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 16:24:04 1995  
From: rarland@epix.net  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 1995 16:55:27 +0000 (GMT)  
Subject: Re: QRP to the Field contest  
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.950402165433.6010B-1000000@peach.epix.net>

Darn it Ron, you take all the fun out of this QRP stuff. I can't even be last place!

I'm gonna take up stamp collecting!

72 rich

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 18:56:16 1995  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 95 15:06:21 -0500  
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)  
Message-Id: <9504022006.AA02760@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>  
Subject: Re: QRP to the Field contest

Rich,

You win. Zeros don't count. Over 1,000,000 people had that score. :-)

Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60 adams@sgi.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Apr 3 00:02:24 1995  
From: Mike.Czuhajewski@hambbs.wb3ffv.ampr.org (Mike Czuhajewski)  
Subject: QRP to the Field, huh?  
Date: Sun, 02 Apr 95 21:24:41 EST5EDT  
Message-Id: <1995Apr02.212441.26397@wb3ffv.ampr.org>

So THAT'S the QRP contest I stumbled across this weekend and couldn't find listed in the March QST. (I shamefacedly admit that I paid no attention to any of the announcements on qrp-l, since I'm not a Contest Animal at present.) I worked AA4XX with 50 mw on 40, and KP4DDB with 35 mw on 20. I also worked N2CX for the first time ever, after seeing him

face to face for years when he passed thru this area, but feel cheap and dirty since I was running actual watts to do it (4 watts).

And someone, AA4XX, I think, suggested that perhaps we have a milliwattting contest some time. The scores and activity might be rather low for something like that, but sounds like a great idea to me!

73 and Queue Our Pea DE WA8MCQ

--

Mike Czuhajewski, user of the UniBoard System @ wb3ffv.ampr.org  
E-Mail: Mike.Czuhajewski@hambbs.wb3ffv.ampr.org  
The WB3FFV Amateur Radio BBS - Located in Baltimore, Maryland USA  
Supporting the Amateur Radio Hobby, and TCP/IP InterNetworking

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 23:08:57 1995  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 1995 18:58:54 -0500 (CDT)  
From: Joe Spencer <jspencer@metronet.com>  
Subject: Re: QRPp  
Message-Id: <Pine.HPP.3.90.950402185534.3109B-1000000@fohnix.metronet.com>

On Sat, 1 Apr 1995, Tim Stabler wrote:

> Saw some commentary from ON7PX on not getting latest QRPp. Is it  
> out? As of Friday, 3/31, I had not gotten mine either.  
>

.....  
I sent my application info and \$ in last December, have not received,  
any QRPp, number or anything... just sent a letter to Jim Cates for a  
followup though...may be a backlog!?

73, DE KC5KAG/AA Joe...

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 17:04:11 1995  
From: Byron8LCZ@aol.com  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 1995 14:15:17 -0400  
Message-Id: <950402141514\_69157070@aol.com>  
Subject: Radio Shack DSP

Theres a real good review of the Radio Shack DSP filter in my clubs (SEMDXA)  
monthly newsletter. Briefly it says:

It contains a six watt audio amp (1% distortion typical) with 3.5" 8 watt  
speaker, and requires 12 vdc at 1 amp. Its 1.75"H x 4.5" W x 7.5"D. and  
weighs abt 1 lb. It uses a 8 bit microprocessor at 10 mhz clock speed.

Hetrodyne rejection 40 db max, Noise reduction 20 db typical. It plugs into the receivers audio output. It has a volume control, on/off switch, filter in/out switch, two 3 position selectors for Bandwidth (narrow/medium/wide) and Filter mode (noise reduction/SSB/CW). jacks for audio in, audio out, headphone jack, 12 vdc power. Also includes a angle bracket for mobile mounting.

1. The DSP unit offers brick wall filtering but it does not eliminate the need for sharp I. F. filters. An interfering CW signal a few hundred cycles removed from the DSP's passband is basically eliminated but its presence still effects the host receivers AGC function and can render a weak CW signal unreadable.

Audio filtering is extremely sharp and very effective in removing annoying interference. In fact it is so sharp in the narrow position (300 hz), that with casual tuning around, it is easy to miss even strong signals!

2. This DSP filter is especially useful with transceivers that do not provide audio filtering. Such as most 100w transceivers on the market today.

3. The Noise Reducton mode is somewhat effective in reducing white noise or background hiss on weak SSB signals. In addition, it is very effective in removing offending heterodynes.

4. Filter widths are:

CW = wide 269-1231 hz, medium 469-1031 hz, narrow 597-903 hz

SSB = wide 300-3000 hz, midium 500-2600 hz, narrow 800-2000 hz

NR = wide 200-2950 hz, midium 200-2500 hz, narrow 200-2000 hz

(NR is noise reduction mode)

For 80 bucks it sounds like a buy, for 50 bucks, you should wear a mask and lo ok over your shoulder. I'll bet Radio Shack only has one per store, in stock.....

72, Byron WA8LCZ Detroit

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 15:59:09 1995

From: JimN00CT@aol.com

Date: Sun, 2 Apr 1995 13:17:20 -0400

Message-Id: <950402131542\_69113271@aol.com>

Subject: Results at N00CT....

Hi you all

Here are my results [as opposed to those of the collective].

After a hot cup of coffee with a shot of brandy [the Wisconsinite in me] and a hot bath, here it how it turned out:

>From the Field [A&A Gary Breed kit],

AA3BZ NJ  
WA6EMT CA  
N1IRZ NM  
W5ES TX [this was a tough one. If you're on the list, thanksfor  
hanging in there]  
All on 20 meters

>From home [SWL-40, from 2045 UTC]

KG0TW MO  
AA2WJ NY  
K0JPL MO  
KD4PUP VA  
K5UP OK  
K5FO TX  
WA8LCZ MI  
AA4XX NC  
K4XY VA  
KZ4D VA  
W3EEK PA  
N9DAW IN  
K4SUY AL [not QRP or in contest, but nice ragchew from Ala.]  
KA3WTF PA  
NF0R MO [also recuperating]  
WU0L CO

Propagation on 40 was horrible in the early part of the day, but improved as the contest wore on. Prop to the east actually improved towards the end of the contest, and starting marching to the West.

All in all a good 'test. No doubt the date was dreamed up by someone in CA  
%^)

73, Jim N0OCT

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Apr 2 20:15:36 1995  
Date: Sun, 2 Apr 1995 13:59:43 -0700  
Message-Id: <199504022059.NAA14223@mailhost.primenet.com>  
From: aa7qy@PrimeNet.Com (Roger Hightower)  
Subject: Spring QRP to the Field

Hi Gang. This was a fun time, even though it was my first QRP contest.  
>From the shores of Roper Lake in S.E. Arizona, I had 8 contacts with the NorCal 40A, battery-powered to a random wire. Power peaked at just a little over 1 watt (should have opened the case and tweaked it to get

the "10" mult, HI).  $8 \times 5 \times 3 \times 1.5 = 180$  points, if I count the multipliers right.

Heard MANY stations that I called who evidently could not hear me. I was pleased to get NA5N and AB5WT on Mt. Baldy, though...don't know what they had for an antenna, but really strong signals on my end.

Great fun! Next time I'll have gear for more than 40 meters, and might crack the 200 pt barrier, HI. Tnx to all who were out there.

72, de Roger AA7QY

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rhig@aztec.asu.edu

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